

REMARKS

Claims 6-9, 11, 12 and 24-46 were pending and under consideration in the above-identified application, Claims 1-5, 10, and 13-23 were previously cancelled, and Claims 6-9, 11, 12, 24-26, 33-37, 44, and 45 were previously withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 27, 29- 32, 38 - 41 and 46 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claims 27 and 41 are amended, and Claims 6 – 9, 11, 12, 24-26, 33-37, 44, and 45 are cancelled. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this Amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 27, 29- 32, 38 – 41 and 46 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 27, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takaaki* (JP Patent Publ. No. 2002-131750) in view of *Kikkawa* (U.S. Patent No. 6,665,032).

Claims 38, 39, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takaaki* and *Kikkawa* in view of *Hanrahan et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,262,788).

Claims 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takaaki* and *Kikkawa* in view of *Suzuki et al.* (U.S. Patent Publ. No. 2002/0018162).

Claims 30, 32, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takaaki* and *Kikkawa* in view of *Suzuki et al.* and in view of *Nishida et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,168).

Although Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, Claims 27 and 41 have been amended to clarify the invention and remove any ambiguities that may have been at the basis of these claim rejections

Independent Claim 27 is directed to a liquid crystal display device. The liquid crystal display device includes a microlens, a liquid crystal panel, a first optical compensation layer, and a second optical compensation layer. Claim 27 recites that “each of the first and second optical compensation layers [are] made of an inorganic material, formed in a flat plate-like shape, and [have] an optical axis inclined with respect to a surface of the liquid crystal panel.” Independent claim 41 recites similar limitations.

Claims 27 and 41 have been amended to recite that “each of the first and second optical compensation layers being made of an inorganic material, formed in a flat plate-like shape, and having an optical axis inclined with respect to a surface of the liquid crystal panel, the optical

axis having a set direction of inclination opposite to that of the liquid crystal panel with respect to the surface of the liquid crystal panel.”

All of the rejections principally rely on the *Takaaki* reference. *Takaaki* is directed to a projection display. *Takaaki* discloses the use of an optical phase compensation board to compensate for the optical phase difference. Unlike the claimed invention, *Takaaki* clearly does not disclose this limitation, and neither do the other references cited by the Examiner for a specific purpose. In fact, as illustrated in Drawing 2 and disclosed in paragraph [0078], in *Takaaki* the orientation angle of the optical phase compensation films 85 and 86 changes to a thickness direction continuously from about 4 times to about 68 degrees, and the phase contrast with the average orientation angle average at about 40 degrees is about 60-80 nm.

For at least the above reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 27 and 41, and their respective dependent claims, are not rendered obvious by *Takaaki* in view of *Kikkawa* or any other cited art.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 27, 29- 32, 38 – 41 and 46 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

If the Examiner finds that there are any outstanding issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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